



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 3, 2000

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Specialist *D. Jensen*

RE: Site Inspection, Western States Mining Company, Drum Mine Reclamation Project,
M/027/007, Millard County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 2, 2000
Time of Inspection: 0930 a.m.
Conditions: Smokey & Hot
Participants: Chuck Cundick - Western States; Wayne Hedberg, Doug Jensen, Lynn Kunzler - DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To Evaluate Reclamation Progress

We arrived on site and drove to the hill overlooking the site to allow Wayne and Lynn to see an overall view of the reclamation. We took a series of pictures with the digital camera for use in the office. The hill overlooking the site is also the area of the old garbage dumps. From what we could see nothing has been done in this area. All the equipment tires remain at the site; off-site disposal of these tires will be necessary before this waste dump can be reclaimed.

The cat was recontouring HG-1 leach pad and the track-hoe was spreading soil on the side-slopes while re-establishing one of the major drainage on the site which runs on the east side of HG-1. There is still only one cat and a track-hoe on site. The second cat is still in the shop and, at the present time, it is unknown when repairs will be completed. In a later conversation with Jim Ashton (Western States), he indicated that because of the amount of damage to the second cat and the cost involved with fixing it, the resloping would probably be completed with equipment presently on site. This will impact the completion schedule of the site by at least a month. The reclamation work completed on site looks very good; it is obvious that the Western States equipment operators have experience in this type of work.

Mr. Cundick inquired about the possibility of leaving a portion of the preg pond in place at the completion of the reclamation. He stated that during their time at the site they have noticed that the water in the pond is being utilized by quite a few animals. This pond is the only watering hole for miles around and the removal of this feature would ultimately impact the wildlife in the area. We noted that the decision to leave the pond would need to come from the landowner (BLM) and the Division of Water Quality. I told Mr. Cundick that I would make inquiries to those agencies about the possibility.

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On August 3, I contacted Dennis Fredricks (DWQ) about the possibility of leaving the pond as a wildlife habitat improvement at the site. He stated that he had no problem with the pond remaining as long as the sediment in the bottom had been characterized and there would not be a possibility of long term problems with the water. Jim Ashton had stated that the material in the bottom of the preg pond had been characterized and it was essentially swamp mud, with no problems with toxicity. I also spoke to Larry Garahana (Fillmore, BLM) about the wildlife pond concept. He stated that he could see a benefit to leaving the pond and he would check with others in his office to see if there would be any long term concerns.

We also discussed that because of the large number of fires in the west, Western States look into purchasing seed for the site in the near future. Seed cost will probably escalate dramatically when the government starts buying seed to reclaim the burn over areas. This increase could potentially impact the final costs of reclaiming the site.

I informed Western States that a landfill permit might be needed to allow them to utilize the ponds to dispose of the materials from the demolition of the buildings on site. I felt that we needed to get any permits that may be required before we get to the point of needing to use the ponds for this purpose.

We toured around the site to allow Wayne and Lynn to view the reclamation work completed to date. Wayne stated that, from the work done to date, he felt that the final reclamation could ultimately be better than he had originally expected. Pictures were taken from several vantage points around the site.

After touring the reclaimed areas we left the site.

jb
CC: Sherry Wysong, BLM, Fillmore FO
Jim Ashton, Western States Minerals
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